

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE ONE IN PARA THREE MISSING)

E. O. 116528 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 18 BRIEFING BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN--
ARMS POLICY

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON OUR ARMS POLICY TOWARD THE
SUBCONTINENT AT FEBRUARY 18 BRIEFING BY DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN FOLLOW:

Q. BOB, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE INDIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO TO
PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN THE SUBCONTI-
NENT AND THAT ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN BY DR. KISSINGER,
WHEN HE WAS THERE LAST FALL, THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO--OR NOT BE AN ARMS RACE?

A. WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD EITHER TO THE STATE-
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MENT YOU REFERRED TO OR THE STATEMENTS THAT WERE MADE ON

THIS SUBJECT AT THE TIME THAT MR. BHUTTO WAS HERE IN WASHINGTON.

Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT BEGUN ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS CONCERNING THE POLICY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

Q. WILL THERE BE A REPLY TO MR. CHAVAN'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY ON THIS? UP TO THIS POINT THERE'S BEEN NO REPLY.

A. I DON'T KNOW.

2. IN REGARD TO FINAL QUESTION, SPOKESMAN LATER MADE FOLLOWING ADDITION TO RECORD FOR FEBRUARY 18:

Q. WILL THERE BE AN ANSWER TO INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN'S LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER REGARDING U.S. ARMS SUPPLY POLICY IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT?

A. YES, IN DUE COURSE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER WILL BE ANSWERED. MAW

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